

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SCEM-02

/035 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TT/MA:RKBANK:EW

APPROVED BY EB/TT/MA:RKBANK

EB/TT - MR. WALDMANN

NEA/IRN - MR. MORTON

MARAD - MR. SANSONE

----- 102519

O 271707Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250678

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG

SUBJECT: BUNKER FUEL

REF: A) TEHRAN 9094 B) STATE 234084 C) STATE 244003

1. DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE CRISIS BEGAN TO ASSIST US AND FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS IN OBTAINING BUNKER FUEL AT US PORTS, WITH A MORE THAN SAIS-FACTORY RECORD OF SUCCESS. THERE IS NO RECORD THAT THE VESSELS REFERRED TO IN REFTEL (A) WERE EVER THE SUBJECT OF SUCH A REQUEST EITHER TO THE DEPARTMENT OR TO THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM THE OWNERS, AGENTS, FREIGHT FORWARDERS, OR IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN NAME OF VESSELS IN QUESTION, PORT(S) OF DEPARTURE, DATE(S) OF DEPARTURE, AND ACTUAL PROBLEMS FACED BY OPERATORS OF THE VESSELS. YOU MAY ASSURE THE APPROPRIATE IRANIAN OFFICIALS THAT ALL WILL BE DONE TO PROVIDE THE VESSELS WITH SUFFICIENT  
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BUNKERS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF THEIR CARGOES TO IRAN.

3. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE FROM REFTELS (B) AND (C), THE USG HAS DECIDED UPON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY ALLOCATION POLICY FOR BUNKERS. THIS MEANS THAT VESSELS OF ALL FLAGS (INCLUDING US FLAG) ARE ALLOCATED BUNKERS ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITHOUT ANY FLAG DISCRIMINATION. THE RATIONALE BEHIND THIS

POLICY HAS ITS FOUNDATION IN THE CONTINUATION OF WORLD TRADE. IF WE GIVE PRIORITY TO OUR OWN VESSELS IN OUR PORTS, ALL OTHER COUNTRIES MAY FOLLOW SUIT. IN THAT WAY, ALL INTERNATIONAL OCEAN TRANSPORT WOULD COME TO A HALT EXCEPT FOR THOSE VESSELS WHICH TAKE ON SUFFICIENT BUNKERS AT THEIR HOME PORTS TO ASSURE ROUND TRIPS. THE USG HAS POINTED TO ITS OWN NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER NATIONS WHICH WERE TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF NATIONAL-FLAG PRIORITIES, AND HAS THEREBY CAUSED THOSE NATIONS TO COME ABOUT AND ESTABLISH NON-DISCRIMINATORY ALLOCATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS, THESE POINTS MAY BE STRESSED, WHILE ALL THE WHILE EMPHASIZING THE FACT THAT EVEN WITHOUT A PARTICULARIZED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR IRANIAN-FLAG VESSELS OR IRANIAN BOUND CARGOES, THOSE VESSELS WILL NONETHELESS BE GIVEN OUR CLOSEST ATTENTION IF THEY REQUIRE GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BUNKERS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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